

two stores run by Dr. Bigelow himself, a truck line railroad eventually spurred sustainable and quick growth for Pleasant Valley, which officially became Plain City in 1871.

Moreover, from its foundation, Plain City has played an important role in American history, originally planted within the Virginia Military District to support veterans of the Revolutionary War. Today, there are over 500 veterans living and working in Plain City, all of whom have made tremendous sacrifices to preserve our freedoms.

For the past 200 years, the overwhelming characteristic of the people of Plain City is the compassion they hold for one another and their determination to do what is right and just. In the 19th century, residents worked diligently in support of the Underground Railroad. Today, the people of Plain City strive to create a "family-oriented community that works cooperatively to promote outstanding quality of life, securing a sustainable environment for future generations while preserving [their] unique heritage and character."

Today, Plain City remains a beautiful place to work, live, and raise a family. I am grateful for the leadership of the Village Council Members, Jody Carney, Kerri Ferguson, Sherry Heineman, Darren Lee, Shannon Pine, and John Rucker, Mayor Darrin Lane and all of the neighbors and friends who have maintained Plain City's beauty and history.

I am honored to represent this county, where community, integrity, and freedom are celebrated not just in recognition of the 200th anniversary of its founding, but each and every day.

#### SUPPORT FOR H.R. 644, CON- DEMNATION OF SLAVE AUC- TIONS IN LIBYA

#### HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 19, 2018*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 644, to condemn the slave auctions of migrants and refugees in Libya. The legislation, which calls for multilateral action and support, takes an important first step towards ending deplorable human rights grievances in the country.

In an era where most of us consider slavery to be a shame of the past, the photos, videos, and reports that have emerged out of Libya in the past year have rocked us to the very core of our humanity.

What is happening in Libya is an unspeakable atrocity.

Recent U.N. reports out of Libya detail sexual violence against the most vulnerable migrant populations—women and children—as well as the unlivable conditions in the detention centers where refugees are being held.

People—human beings—are being bought, sold, and traded like chattel, on auction blocks, for their labor.

This is nothing short of a humanitarian crisis.

As a leader on the international stage, and as fellow human beings, our nation has a responsibility to speak out against such flagrant disregard for human life and freedom.

I would like to thank my colleague, KAREN BASS for offering H.R. 644 to condemn the

slave auctions of migrants and refugees in Libya, and for calling the world to action.

I strongly encourage my colleagues in Congress to act, with a sense of urgency, to end these egregious human rights violations.

#### IN MEMORY, REMEMBRANCE, AND CELEBRATION OF BEVERLY AL- STON

#### HON. ADRIANO ESPAILLAT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 19, 2018*

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a dear friend and civil rights champion, Ms. Beverly Alston.

Ms. Alston will long be remembered for her legacy as a civil rights warrior, social justice champion, and for being a loving mother. She was an icon in Harlem; renown for her tireless fight against racial discrimination. Ms. Alston worked with Reverend Al Sharpton in the early days of the National Action Network.

She saw it grow from a local grassroots organization to a nationally and internationally recognized civil rights organization.

Reverend Sharpton took time this past weekend to recognize Ms. Alston on his PoliticsNation program speaking to her character and her contributions to the fight for equality that began in the Harlem Community.

It was her lifelong mission to better our Harlem and Northern Manhattan community for this generation and those that follow. Ms. Alston was a dedicated public servant having served in many different positions that reflected her interests and aptitudes.

She was Superintendent of the New York State Office of General Services; past President of the Jackie Robinson Park Conservatory and worked in Intergovernmental Relations for the New York State Insurance Department.

In both the New York City Council and New York State Executive Chamber, Ms. Alston was always able to make a positive impact on the lives of New Yorkers in the City and throughout the State.

Her legacy to Harlem will forever be remembered. May she Rest in Peace and may God comfort her friends, family, and all who knew and loved her dearly. She will be missed.

#### GERALD "JERRY" K. WELLER

#### HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 19, 2018*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, Oregon has been on the cutting edge of advancing LGBTQ rights, or "gay rights" as they were known over 40 years ago. On Sunday, July 8, we lost one of the early pioneers in Oregon and nationally—Gerald K. Weller.

Jerry encouraged others to follow his example as an articulate leader, open about his sexual orientation and the critical nature of the civil rights movement he helped found. As a gay man, he provided many with their first experience of knowing an out and proud gay person.

Jerry was the executive director of Portland Town Council, a pioneering LGBTQ advocacy

organization in Oregon, and went on to leadership on the national level in Washington, D.C. for what would become the Human Rights Campaign Fund. He led a major health clinic in Chicago in the midst of the AIDS epidemic. With his return to Oregon, he worked for several state agencies as a committed advocate for gay rights.

Early in my career, I valued Jerry's leadership, advice, support, and advocacy. He truly made his mark as one of the unsung heroes of the LGBTQ civil rights movement as he improved the lives of countless Oregonians and advanced understanding for many more.

I salute his impact on Oregon and the nation and mourn his loss.

#### TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM RICHARD CRAMER

#### HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 19, 2018*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to William Richard Cramer, who passed away in California on Wednesday, June 20, 2018. Richard was an innovator in the feed and egg industries, and an active member of our community. He will be deeply missed.

Richard was born in Anaheim on July 25, 1931 to parents Olin and Ruth. He graduated from Anaheim Union High School in 1949 and received his B.A. from Claremont McKenna College in 1953. During college he served two years in the California Air National Guard and met Carole Furman, whom he married in 1952. They were married 45 years until Carole died in 1997. Richard married Mary Eisen and they have been together for 20 years. After graduating college, Richard joined the family egg production business. Over time this business grew to include Star Milling Co. in Perris, California, that was owned through a partnership between Richard and the Eisen family of Norco Ranch.

Richard was acknowledged as a leader in the animal feed and egg production industries and was awarded "Farmer of the Year—Poultry" by the California Department of Food and Agriculture in 1959. There were many other agricultural and business enterprises that Richard had ownership in, including Goose Creek Golf Club in Jurupa Valley, Orchard Egg Farms in Anaheim and Manchester Feeds in Arizona. Richard also served as a Trustee of Claremont McKenna College from 1987 to 2006. He was a leader in many civic and community organizations, past and present, as Member of the Board of Governors of the Bowers Museum, a founding donor to the Segerstrom Center for the Arts in Costa Mesa, and a 35-year member of the Lincoln Club of Orange County.

I extend my heartfelt condolences to my good friend Mary Cramer, the extended Cramer family, his friends, and everyone fortunate enough to know Richard. Although Richard may be gone, the many significant contributions he made to his family and our community will have a lasting impact.